

MONACA BOROUGH
Meeting Minutes
January 14th, 2020 at 7:00pm

The Regular Meeting of the Monaca Borough Council was held on the above date and time. The Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Mrs. Majors- present	Mr. Rebich- present
Mr. Mitchell- present	Mr. Blararik- present
(Vacant)	Mr. Michel- present
Mr. LaPearle- absent	Vice President Shotter- present (via teleconference)
Mr. Wilson- present	President Booher- present

Others Present

Mayor Simon D. Short; Mario N. Leone Jr., & Rich Urick, Esq.

Visitors: None

Communications: None

Minutes- Mr. Blararik **motioned** to approve the **Regular** Meeting Minutes from the December 10th, 2019 Council Meeting. Second by Mrs. Majors. Motion carried unanimously.
Mr. Wilson **motioned** to approve the **Reorganization** Meeting Minutes of January 6th, 2020. Second by Mr. Rebich. Motion carried unanimously.

Fiscal and Contractual- Mr. Shotter **motioned** to approve the monthly bills. Second by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayors Report- the Honorable Mayor Short gave his report for the Month of December 2019.

Citations and Parking Tickets: **68**

Criminal Arrests: **17**

Call For Service: **459**

Total Miles patrolled: **4,307 miles**

Managers' Report- Mr. Leone announced SGA will be attending the February 4th workshop meeting to give an updated presentation on Streetscape project. In addition, he is also working with Penn Dot regarding the 17th Street Traffic Improvement project. They indicated to him, due to a technicality, "Publication No. 93" states any contractor that does any work in the preliminary design and any assistance seeking grant funds will not be eligible to move forward as the consultants in the project. Council discussed. Mr. Leone said it is now a Penn Dot Project at this point. He briefly explains the "publication 93" he referenced earlier is a State Statute. VP Shotter confirmed with Mr. Leone that since this is codified, there is nothing further the Borough can do. Mrs. Majors wanted confirmation that the Borough does not have a choice for the consultant and Penn Dot does. Mr. Leone said ultimately. President Booher concurred and said the overall project has become Penn Dots. Mr. Michel asked who will maintain and assume the responsibility after project is done. Mr. Leone gave an example and stated it's the law/rule for the Borough to maintain the road. Mr. Wilson wanted to confirm that the awarded \$3 million dollar grant money got switched over to Penn Dot's project. Mr. Leone said yes and went over the actual funding of the project including the Borough match. Mr. Leone and Mr. Wilson discussed funding. Mr. Wilson then asked if Mr. Leone could ask SGA for update on the \$1million HUD money and when they would need to spend that. Mr. Leone said he will keep all abreast of the project moving forward.
Lastly, Mr. Leone said he and Mayor have been working together with Penn State trying to connect Penn State Beaver to downtown. Mayor said they have some things to figure out first with all involved and then they can go from there.

Solicitors Report: Solicitor Urick gave his report. He had two matters that will need to be discussed in Executive session pertaining litigation and the other for personnel contract negotiations.

Department Report – WWTP Superintendent Curt DiGiovine gave his report for the month of December 2019. After his report, Mr. Leone notified council that the WWTP was in violation that resulted in a \$5,000 fine pertaining to high flow storm water. Mr. Leone explained the fine and that Curt was diligent in reaching out to the regional manager who oversees these fines. Curt was able to get the fine reduced to \$2,000. This being said, Mr. Leone stated a **motion** will need passed to authorize Borough Solicitor and President Booher to sign the documents regarding the fine of \$2,000. Mr. Michel made the **motion**. Second by Mr. Rebich. President Booher asked the audience three times if there were any questions regarding the motion. There were none. Mr. Michel asked Curt about downspouts. Curt answered accordingly and said eventually he would like to see downspouts inspected when a house goes up for sale to make sure they are not tapped into the collection system. Mr. Shotter said he was working on an Ordinance but it was put at a halt. He suggested a few councilmembers to be formed to discuss this and get their ideas/input to him and the solicitor to move forward with this matter. President Booher said they will do this. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Leone then informed council a Resolution also needs passed. He said Resolution No. 2-20 will state that the Borough of Monaca are hereby authorized to execute the signing of the Consent Assessment of Civil Penalty from the DEP and return this to the DEP in a timely manner.

New Business: President Booher skipped down to “New Business” since there is another Resolution (1-20) to be adopted first.

(a.) Mr. Leone explained Resolution No. 1-20. He explains that all items included on the Resolution meet the requirements in the Municipal Records Retention Act. Mrs. Majors **motioned** to adopt **Resolution No. 1-20**, Disposition of Borough Records. Second by Mr. Blanarik. Motion carried unanimously.

(b.) Mr. Michel **motioned** to adopt **Resolution No. 2-20**. Second by Mr. Blanarik. President Booher asked the audience three times if there were any questions regarding the motion. Bill Wise-698 Kaye Avenue- asked what the Resolution is again. President Booher reiterated Res. #2-20 is what Mr. Leone just read in relation to the Borough fine. There were no more questions. Motion carried unanimously.

President Booher thanked Curt once more for his diligence getting the fine reduced down to \$2,000.

Ordinance Review Committee Report- VP Shotter said they touched base on Rain Water Ordinance and he and Solicitor Urick are currently working on the Art District Ordinance that Mayor Short sent them. He then asked since they have awarded Waste Management the new garbage contract, have they touched base at all on the garbage ordinance. Solicitor Urick said he is waiting to hear from Council as to what changes they want to be made. Mr. Shotter stated he knows they have to change the size of garbage cans, and they might as well make changes if there are any more to make. Mayor Short asked to start looking at Street Maintenance Ordinance in accordance with WM changes to be made this July for new automated pick-up. Mr. Shotter said yes, they will put that back on the radar too. Mr. Leone also caught council up with his recent conversation he had with Waste Management in regards to all the changes to be made this year. President Booher asked that Garbage & Street Maintenance to be discussed in the upcoming workshop meetings until they are completed. Lastly, VP Shotter asked Mr. Leone to see if WM would be willing to do any cost-sharing on new signage.

Monaca Community Outreach Report (on sabbatical until Spring)

Monaca Business District Authority Report & MCDC- Mrs. Majors & Mayor Short gave their report.

Monaca Recreation Report- Mr. Blanarik said they postponed the January meeting until February.

(cont'd) New Business:

1. Mr. Leone gave an update of appointment of Michelle Manzo. He explained librarian Pat Smith reached out to Beaver County Library Regional Director who did not find an issue in letting a non-resident be on the Monaca Library board. He states they go according to their by-laws and because libraries are “Regional”, it doesn’t specify that a member has to be from that area or not. Mrs. Majors **motioned** to re-appoint Michelle Manzo to the Library Board with a 2 year term ending December 31st, 2021. Second by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried unanimously.
2. President Booher recommended to appoint Councilman Billy Mitchell as the new BCRCOG Monaca Delegate for, and himself and Councilman Derek Wilson as the Alternates. Mr. Michel made the **motion** to appoint Billy Mitchell as COG Delegate, President John Booher and Councilman Derek Wilson as Alternates. Second by Mr. Rebich. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Mr. Leone explains Columbia Gas Company’s request to install a service stairway at the end of 12th Street since they periodically have to go down there and assess the gas line. He explains for safety reasons, they are asking the Borough to let them install a stairwell on the Borough’s Right-Of-Way that will solely be used for them only. They would put a gate to secure the stairway so public could not use it. President Booher said before they move

forward, there needs to be a contract between the Borough and Columbia Gas that Solicitor Urick would have to work on with them. Solicitor Urick needs more details. He asked where the stairway is going...if it's within a ROW that Gas Company already has, then no document needs prepared. If they propose to place it somewhere else, then there would be one of two forms of agreement that would need to be prepared, either a ROW or License agreement. He also states if it's on Borough owned property, the liability is where he is most concerned with. VP Shotter also agreed with Solicitor Urick. President Booher said they need to look further into this. Mr. Leone said he will get more details from Columbia Gas to Solicitor Urick before moving ahead.

Citizens:

1.) Jerry Fisher-1324 Washington Avenue, Monaca- was in attendance to ask why his vacant property he owns and maintains at 1324 Washington Avenue is receiving a bill for trash. He also states he has neighbors that dump trash on this property. Mr. Leone said he will look into this matter. He also asked if he is paying water or sewer for this property. Mr. Fisher responded saying water has been turned off. Mr. Leone said this may be a bigger concern that he's not paying water/sewer. He explains the Borough ordinance that states they give fines for every year a property remains vacant. Mr. Leone asked what his intentions are with this property. He states to rent it out sooner than later. Council discussed this matter and all concerns involved. President Booher said moving forward, he will have to pay the trash bill.

2.) Bill Wise- 698 Kaye Avenue, Monaca- was in attendance to seek council's direction where they stand on fixing the Borough's water system. He explains how terrible his water is. He thinks water is the bigger priority than the Streetscape project. President Booher explained Streetscape and water are two separate matters that they continuously are working on. He explained awarded grant monies can only be used for what it was submitted for. Mr. Leone said he has the upmost respect for Mr. Wise as an outstanding citizen but he strongly disagreed with his comments about the water system. Mr. Leone boldly states they have invested a large amount of money in rehabilitating the Boroughs' water infrastructure. Monaca's water system is looked upon by others by what they do. He also mentioned the grants and that they can submit for multiple grants at a time, and their focus does not have to solely be just on one. He explained the difference & complexity between water grants and a grants and the Streetscape grant. Mr. Leone then gave the schedule this year of replacing waterlines within the borough. He said the public works can do this in house, and they are working on Walnut Street as they speak. As they improve the waterlines one by one, it should improve the quality of the water. Mr. Wise thanked him for the explanation.

3.) Robert Mizenko- 628 Beaver Avenue, Monaca- was in attendance to let council know that there are two vacant houses on Beaver Avenue that have rodents which come onto his property. He knows Nick-NSO is working on this, but is asking council if there is anything they can do to speed up the process. He also reported that Waste Management has been picking up trash and recycling on different days and how frustrating that is. Mr. Leone said he will take a look at the houses and reach out to Waste Management.

4.) Councilperson Patricia Majors-1223 Atlantic Ave, Monaca- spoke as a citizen-she congratulated Mario Leone for the beautiful video circulating on Facebook through RiverWise in regards to Monaca and being sustainable and Monaca being one of the Eco Districts of RiverWise. Mr. Leone thanked Mrs. Majors and gave the credit to council too for all their support in making all of it happen.

Announcements: Mrs. Majors read the following announcements. Monaca Christmas Tree recycling is from January 6th through January 31st. Residents are asked to call the Borough office to schedule pick-up.

Executive Session: Mr. Shotter **motioned** to go into Executive Session for Personnel at 8:32pm. Second by Mr. Blararik. Motions carried unanimously.

Mr. Shotter **motioned** to adjourn Executive Session at 8:59pm. Second by Mr. Blararik. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Shotter **motioned** to resume the Public Meeting at 8:59pm. Second by Mr. Rebich. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Shotter **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at **9:00p.m.** Second by Mrs. Majors. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,


Brittany Bologna, Secretary

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